

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUNICH 00396 171104Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 171050Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6711

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 0396

EXDIS

FOR EUR - ARMITAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN

SUBJECT: RESIGNATION OF RFE ACTING DIRECTOR

1. RFE/RL EXECUTIVE VICE PREIDENT SCOTT AND ACTING DIRECTOR COOK HAVE INDICATED TO CONGEN SEPARATELY AND IN CONFIDENCE THAT COOK HAS RESIGNED EFFECTIVE MARCH 5 OR 6.

2. COOK'S RESIGNATION WAS TRIGGERED BY HEATED ARGUMENT HE HAD WITH RFE DIRECTOR-DESIGNATE HEMSING FEBRUARY 14 CONCERNING FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS REGARDING RFE'S MISSION AND RELATIONSHIP TO EASTERN EUROPEAN AUDIENCES AND REGIMES.

3. HEMSING IS NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MUNICH MARCH 7 AND BEGIN WORK MARCH 8. COOK HAS BEEN SUPERVISING ALL RFE BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT VIRTUALLY ALONE SINCE RALPH WALTER'S TRANSFER LAST FALL. WITHOUT COOK, HEMSING, WHO IS NOT RPT NOT YET EXPERIENCED IN EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, WILL PRESUMABLY BE COMPELLED TO RELY INITIALLY ON SOMEONE FROM RFE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT AS HIS ASSISTANT. OTHERWISE HEMSING WILL FACE VERY DIFFICULT TRANSITION PERIOD.

4. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT COOK, WHO IS LOYAL TO THE INSTITUTION RFE, IS SEEKING TO AVOID PUBLICITY, WHICH MIGHT AFFECT RADIO ADVERSELY. ALTHOUGH RFE WOULD PREFER
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TO REFRAIN FROM EARLY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COOK'S DECI-

SION, RUMOR OF IT IS SPREADING THROUGHOUT RFE AND MAY
REACH THE PRESS IN SHORT ORDER.PETERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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